



Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning
4000 Collins Road P.O. Box 30633 Lansing, MI 48909-8133
(517) 336-6477
www.michigan.gov/ohsp

October 25, 2006

Contact: Nikki Klemmer
(517) 333-5304

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Law enforcement officers across Michigan to conduct Halloween drunk driving patrols

For those who drink too much at a costume party before driving home, the scariest part about Halloween might be the additional law enforcement officers on the road looking for and arresting drunk drivers.

With more than 44 percent of Michigan's traffic fatalities over last year's Halloween weekend related to alcohol, the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP) is administering federal traffic safety funds to law enforcement agencies in 16 counties to patrol for drunk drivers the days leading up to Halloween.

Four out of nine traffic fatalities in Michigan the Friday and Saturday (Oct. 28-29, 2005) before Halloween were alcohol related, according to crash statistics. Statewide in 2005, officers made 192 drunk driving arrests on Oct. 28 and 293 drunk driving arrests on Oct. 29.

"Halloween has become a popular holiday for adults as well as children, and we're seeing the effect when it comes to drunk driving," said Michael L. Prince, OHSP division director. "What's really frightening is that some people continue to drink and drive, but they should know that officers will be out in force to stop and arrest them."

More than 40 agencies in the following counties are participating in the Halloween drunk driving patrols: Bay, Cass, Clinton, Delta, Ingham, Iron, Lapeer, Livingston, Macomb, Marquette, Mason, Montcalm, Saginaw, Sanilac, St. Clair and Wayne. Patrols will run through Halloween with a heavy emphasis on Oct. 27, 28 and 31.

OHSP also offers these tips for a safer Halloween weekend:

- Don't get behind the wheel if you've been drinking.
- Take the keys and never let a friend drive while drunk.
- If impaired, call a taxi, use mass transit or call a sober friend to get you.
- Stay where you are and sleep it off until you are sober.
- If you're hosting a party, make sure all your guests leave with a sober driver.

OHSP administers funds for drunk driving and safety belt enforcement throughout the year to agencies in 55 counties that cover 94 percent of Michigan's population. Each county determines when to schedule patrols based on crash data, officer availability and unique local needs. For a list of Halloween patrol dates, times and locations, please visit www.michigan.gov/ohsp.

- 30 -

NEWS RELEASE
TRAFFIC SAFETY